

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11756 061222Z

65

ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.), RP, PFOR

SUBJ: CANBERRA TIMES REPORT ON DEPUTY SECRETARY'S

COMMENTS ON INDONESIA

1. IN THE COURSE OF Q & A FOLLOWING AUGUST 4 SPEECH BEFORE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB IN CANBERRA, DEPUTY SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON US VIEW OF INDONESIA WAS REPORTED OUT OF CONTEXT AND DISTORTED BY CANBERRA TIMES REPORTER BRUCE JUDDERY IN PAPER'S AUGUST 5 EDITION.

2. UNDER FRONT PAGE HEADLINE "U.S. SKEPTICAL OF INDONESIA'S FUTURE", JUDDERY ARTICLE QUOTED ROBINSON WITHOUT CONTEXT AS SAYING U.S. NOT SANGUINE ABOUT FUTURE OF INDONESIA, WHICH HAD EXHIBITED A LACK OF CAPACITY TO MANAGE ITS ECONOMY. OTHER PAPERS IN CANBERRA AND SYDNEY REPORTED APPEARANCE WITHOUT MENTIONING INDONESIA ANGLE.

3. EMBASSY CANBERRA REPORTS JUDDERY HAS BEEN FILING MANY
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PAGE 02 MANILA 11756 061222Z

STORIES LATELYWHICH ARE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF INDONESIA'S

POLICIES IN EAST TIMOR AND GOES OUT OF HIS WAY ON ALMOST ANY OCCASION TO CRITICIZE INDONESIA. EMBASSY STATES JUDDERY BIAS IS WELL KNOWN TO INDONESIAN EMBASSY CANBERRA WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL FRAME ANY REPORT TO JAKARTA IN THIS CONTEXT.

4. JUDDERY QUESTION AND ROBINSON ANSWER, TAKEN FROM TAPE OF PRESS CLUB APPEARANCE, ARE QUOTED BELOW FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION IN THE EVENT OF INQUIRY OR COMMENT ON THE PART OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT.

5. QUOTE. QUESTION: BRUCE JUDDERY: CANBERRA TIMES: WHEN PRIME MINISTER FRASER WAS IN CHINA RECENTLY HE WAS REPORTED AS EXPRESSING WITH THE PRESENT CHINESE LEADERS, CONCERN OVER THE PRESENT STABILITY OF INDONESIA BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF EVENTS. DO YOU SHARE THE CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA IN YOUR TALKS HERE AND SECONDLY WHAT IS THE REACTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE SUGGESTION THAT INDONESIA MIGHT DECLARE UNILATERALLY THAT THE WATERS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO ITS OWN. END QUOTE.

QUOTE. ANSWER: RIGHT. I CAN'T COMMENT ON THE VIEWS YOUR PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED IN CHINA BUT I WILL COMMENT ON OUR FEELINGS ABOUT INDONESIA'S IMPORTANCE STRATEGICALLY, INDONESIA'S IMPORTANCE ECONOMICALLY - AN IMPORTANT NATION BY VIRTUE OF ITS POPULATION AND ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND WE SEEK A CLOSER AND MORE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA BECAUSE WE THINK IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL OTHER NATIONS IN THIS AREA; WE ARE NOT SANGUINE HOWEVER, ABOUT THE FUTURE OF INDONESIA - THEY FACE SOME VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS, RAPIDLY EXPLODING POPULATION, THE LACK OF (I WANT TO BE VERY CAREFUL HOW I EXPRESS THIS) BUT THE CAPACITY TO DIRECT AND PLAN THEIR ECONOMY BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THEY WILL FACE IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, WE DON'T SEE ANYTHING IN THE IMMEDIATE PICTURE THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT SUHARTO IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE LEADER AND WILL CONTINUE IN THIS PRESENT GOVERNMENT, AND WILL CONTINUE IN POWER, AND OF COURSE WE RELATE TO INDONESIA ON THE BASIS OF THAT ASSUMPTION. WITH REGARD TO THE DECLARATION OF THE WATERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MANILA 11756 061222Z

IN THAT AREA AS THEIR PROPERTY OR TERRITORIAL RIGHT, WE ARE GUIDED BY THE POSITION THAT WE ARE TALKING IN RELATION TO THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATION WHICH IS IN PROGRESS RIGHT NOW IN NEW YORK, AND THAT WILL, IF SUCCESSFUL, IF NOT AT THIS MEETING AT SUCH FUTURE CONFERENCES WILL LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE BASIC ZONES, THE TERRITORIAL AREA WHICH EXTENDS TWELVE MILES FROM THE COAST, THE ECONOMIC AREA EXTENDS 200 MILES BEYOND THAT TO THE DEEP SEA BED.

ANY ACTION TAKEN BY ANY COUNTRY UNILATERALLY, BUT WHICH IS
INCONSISTENT WITH THOSE PRINCIPLES WE WOULD OPPOSE, AND
THEREFORE I AM NOT FULLY AWARE OF THEIR CLAIMS, BUT LET ME JUST
SAY THAT IN PRINCIPLE IF IT IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICIES
THAT WE ARE PURSUING, THE GUIDELINES WE ARE HOPING TO
ESTABLISH AND THAT OBJECTIVE IS SHARED BY MOST OF THE
INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS OF THE WORLD, THEN WE WOULD FIND
A UNILATERAL APPROACH INCONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDELINES
THAT WE THINK ARE IMPORTANT FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD.
END QUOTE.
ROBINSON

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